

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

Chief John R. Batiste



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*****For Immediate Release*****

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The WSP and the Trucking Industry Unveil a New Tool to Help Find Missing Children “Homeward Bound”

Where: *Gordon Trucking Inc.*
151 Stewart Rd. SW
Pacific, WA 98047

When: *Friday, April 21, 2006*

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Speaker: *Chief John R. Batiste*

Additional Interview Opportunities include: *Sandy Pedigo, mother of Shania Joan Supanich; Investigators for the cases; Sergeant Dan Sharp, Missing and Exploited Children’s Task Force; Sue Miller, Missing Children Clearinghouse Coordinator; Trooper Renee Padgett, WSP Commercial Vehicle Division; David Allman, General Manager/owner of IMAGIC; Mike Southards, Washington Trucking Association; Vic & Mary Payment, Budget Auto Wrecking; Curt Burhenn, Peninsula Truck Lines; and Larry and Steve Gordon, Gordon Trucking Inc.*

Why: At any given time there are approximately 1,700 missing children in Washington State, including children who have been abducted and runaways. During calendar year 2005, the Clearinghouse assisted local law enforcement agencies and families in the recovery of 131 missing children. Many of these cases involved custodial interference, which involved a non-custodial parent illegally taking a child and fleeing.

As of March 2006, the WSP missing children’s unit has recovered 42 children, but there are still 245 open cases, that’s more than 245 children that are still missing.

Photo Opportunity: The WSP has partnered with the Washington Trucking Association, Gordon Trucking Inc., Peninsula Truck Lines, and Budget Auto Wrecking to put pictures of four missing children on the side of trucks in order to spread the word across the state in an effort to locate these children. The trucks and some family members of the featured children will be present at the event for interviews and photos.

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